

The Sun.

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Building in New York.

At a meeting on Jan. 12 of the emergency committee of the Building Trades Employers' Association an official statement was issued of which this is the opening paragraph:

"Various articles have appeared in the public press, particularly in the *New York Times* of Jan. 11, which charge that the Building Trades Employers' Association of New York City is engaged in a conspiracy with labor unions for the purpose of controlling the building business of this city and preventing persons not members of this association from peacefully pursuing their business."

Elsewhere in the statement is a declaration that the association

"has not entered into any contract, agreement or understanding, tacit or otherwise, of any nature whatsoever, whereby any person, be he a member of this association or not, is prevented from doing business with any branch of the building industry, and it has done absolutely nothing to restrict free and open competition."

THE SUN has never said that such a conspiracy exists or has existed. On the strength of statements publicly made by a member of the association, publicly supported by other builders, we have simply said that the existence of such an agreement, under which construction work in New York is confined to a comparatively limited number of local establishments, has been asserted. The denial issued by the association does not fully dispose of those assertions. There may be neither a binding contract nor even a "gentleman's agreement" between the employers' association and the labor unions, neither conspiracy nor "understanding, tacit or otherwise," yet there may exist, and there is much to indicate that there does exist, a situation growing out of the present relations between the two which is quite as effective as any hard and fast contract or agreement. An appreciation of the hopelessness of enforcing a contract, whether it be an international war or a business competition, may be as effective a deterrent as an ironclad agreement between local allies.

Now, actually, is the New York building market open and free to the competition of outside houses or outside workmen? Can it be shown that a contractor or builder not a member of the association can secure a contract of any importance in the city of New York, and would it be possible for him to get it to execute such a contract if he got it?

Undoubtedly those engaged in building construction in New York have long faced exceedingly complex problems. They deal with labor unions representing more than thirty different industries engaged in building processes. They have been endlessly harassed and hampered in their undertakings by unions and by some of the representatives of those unions. They have been forced to protect themselves by means of strike clauses in their contracts. All this we have recognized and freely admitted. They may say with some reason that they were bound to adopt "peace at any price" as their motto.

But certain facts have appeared and certain assertions have been made, and these are not clearly refuted or disproved by the statement from which we have quoted. The cost of construction in New York is unreasonably excessive, and there is no doubt that a large amount of work which would otherwise go on has been held up by conditions for which builders and contractors must share the responsibility. Mr. STARRETT's talk about a "Chinese wall" seems to be justified in the experience of New York building.

At any rate, the matter must be thrashed out thoroughly. A great injury has been done and is now done to the development of the town and to workmen in need of employment. It has come to pass that people are getting afraid to improve their land with buildings, unless they are organized in corporations with vast capital at their disposal, and even these are holding back because of the enormous expense imposed on them by the conditions in the building industry.

All the wrong may not be on one side; but that there is grievous wrong somewhere is obvious, and we shall do whatever lies in our power to locate the rottenness. If there is not a "conspiracy" strictly, it is apparent that there is something very like it in effect.

New England.

For more than two centuries New England was practically a homogeneous community. The ruling strain in her blood was English, or perhaps British would be more exact. No really great stream of immigration had poured in since the Puritan exodus from Latin and trouble, 1630-40. There were dribblings only. In a small people, settled so long in the country, subjected to the same influences, there can have been no marked differentiation save of education and social class. Patricians, like the English WINTHROPs who "came over" in the seventeenth century, and the Irish STRATHANS who "came over" in the eighteenth, were essentially alike; and the body of "common" was English also.

The beginnings of manufacture, as well as the emigration from New England to the West, made immigration absolutely necessary. Soon vanished the idyllic days of the "Lowell Offering," the sweet young American factory girls whom ANDREW JACKSON admired so much in his New England peregrinations in the

early thirties. The Irish famine made New England, her manufacturing system, her railroads, her canals in the days of canals, the public works, the multi-farious prosperity, were due, so far as the labor was concerned, largely to "the Irish." Into the cotton factories, meanwhile, came also English, Scotch, Welsh and French Canadian operatives.

The race of the elder settlers, having done its work and now demanding a higher standard of comfort, grew less fertile. For it should be remembered that the New England marriage rate or birth rate decreases by deliberate choice and for social and economic reasons. "The Irish" increased and multiplied. They possessed the land. The temporary early prejudice, natural in a provincial commonwealth, passed away. In Boston a few "old" ones as they became the rulers. They were thoroughly assimilated. They became Americans of Americans. Hardly has the still not old observer of conditions and changes in New England time to mark the triumph of the Americanized Celt, before new races swim into his ken and disturb his calculations. The prolific French Canadian, are powerful or dominant, we believe, in some New England cities, Holyoke, for instance. Did not the French Canadian retain his love for home, for "my dear Canada," as perhaps you may have heard him sing in French in a train at the Vermont border, he would be still more important. Italy has come to Boston, and to the rest of the New England country. In the sacred towns of old Maine, Salem and Plymouth, some Italian dialect is apt to be the first language the reverent visitor to Gallows Hill or Puddle Dock hears. The Greeks, too, have settled in the Modern Athens. The Portuguese are strong along "the Cape." Mesopotamia, Asia Minor, Rumania, Russia, Poland have been emptying into the continent and way stations. Jews are numerous. "What shall the outcome be?" asks the *Boston Herald*, the murmur of many strange tongues in its respectable ears.

Wait till the day of alligation, till the compositure, the new New England, is born. And don't worry, even if it be true of the New Englander, even if it be "their moral standards are low." The moral standards of pious New England in the late seventeenth and the eighteenth century were low. Remember how many of your great-grandmothers had to confess, in church, certain indiscretions of their hot youth when GEORGE First, or Second, was King. Those of us who spring, and are glad of it, from New England stock, should know enough of our ancestors and ancestresses to know that they were very human.

The real problem to confront the New England convolutions is "How shall I Make a Living in the Sweet By and By?" Wool and shoes are about the only trades that have not been wrenched from her. On cotton her hold is precarious. Rich and frugal and full of high characters and qualities as she is, the industrial and commercial acceptance has passed from her hands.

Full of landscape and seascape, coast and mountain, she is "the queen of summer resorts." Her sons who have wandered away from her go back and buy the old homesteads. Country places and parks abound. So do colleges and schools. Scenery and education are her great attraction. But we foresee her as a Switzerland on the sea. Her population should speak many languages, like the Swiss. Polish, Italian, Greek, Portuguese cantons will be needed in her business.

Russian and Japanese Conditions.

For the moment, certainly, appearances are decidedly against the Russians. Gen. KUROPATKIN is reported to be calling urgently for reinforcements to meet the increased weight of the force which the fall of Port Arthur has enabled MARSHAL OYAMA to put in line against him. There is also the probability that he will have to provide against a serious attack early in the spring on Vladivostok itself, or on some point between there and Harbin which will isolate it, while the main Japanese army throws itself against him up the line of the railway to the latter place, and a sufficient force is sent to clear northern Corea.

It is likewise reported that the opening of the spring campaign will see attempts on the part of the Japanese, with irregular bodies of Chinese, to act from northern Mongolia against the railway between Lake Baikal and Harbin and to harass, if they cannot cut off, the communications between Irkutsk and eastern Siberia and Manchuria. Anything like even a moderate success in such an enterprise would go a long way to settle the fate of the campaign in Manchuria. It would also be in consonance with what now appears to be the fixed determination of the Japanese, to continue the war until they have drawn the new eastern frontier of Russia in northern Asia somewhere in the Baikal region. The only obstacle to the successful execution of this plan in the manner described would be the unwillingness of the Chinese Government to allow an extension of the war into its Mongolian provinces.

It is said that when the season opens sufficiently for the movement of large bodies of troops carrying their own supplies, Gen. KUROPATKIN will have something like three-quarters of a million troops at his disposal. Even if this proves true, which is improbable, these troops will be opposed by at least an equal number of Japanese. The only question is whether the latest levies going over from Japan are of the same quality as those that have preceded them. If the two armies are of anything like equal strength and quality, it may be asked whether a decisive campaign during the coming summer is possible.

That, of course, would depend on whether one of the combatants was better able than the other to keep up its supplies of reinforcements and food uninterrupted. So far as the Russians are concerned, the speculations at the beginning of the war as to an early breakdown of the Siberian railway have proved baseless. The contrary has been shown, and to the able management of Prince KILIKHOFF, in addition to the prolonged resistance made by Port

Arthur, it is due that the Japanese army is not to-day far north of Mukden. Of the food required for an army in the field there is an abundance, and in Manchuria itself the quality is good. Along the Amur large quantities of grain are being collected during the present season at points where it will be available for transport by steamer to the mills at Harbin when navigation opens.

On the Japanese side the fortifications that are being constructed on the island of Quelpart, at the south end of Corea and in the fairway between the Sea of Japan and the Yellow Sea, and on the Pescadores in the Straits of Formosa, and on the island of Formosa itself, indicate expectations that properly defended coaling stations may be needed by the Japanese fleet away from Port Arthur and the coast of Japan, and perhaps not against a Russian fleet only. Should the Baltic squadron be recalled, which is not yet decided, there would be no difficulty in keeping up the supplies for the army in Manchuria, so that the issue of the coming campaign will depend largely on the strategy of the Generals and the fighting of their armies.

Both sides have every reason for trying to make the next campaign decisive. The internal situation of Russia is bad enough to make an early end to the war of the first importance, and it is questionable if that of Japan is much better. Observers on the spot maintain that the poverty of the masses, whose daily expenditure for food and other necessities is reckoned in the tenth parts of a yen, or half a cent, is so great that it is already beyond the ordinary means of relief. One paper which ventured to express the rising discontent was suppressed, the office plant confiscated and the editor sentenced to heavy fine and imprisonment, and a stringent press law has been passed making it almost impossible in the future for any one even to appear to criticize the Government, especially with regard to the war or anything connected with it.

A campaign, therefore, which should close again in a deadlock, as did in Manchuria last year, with the credit of both countries impaired and the populations weary of their sacrifices, as a contingency which both the Russian and Japanese Governments have to dread. There is all the more reason, then, for their ending the war as speedily as possible, either by forcing the fighting so vigorously that one must succumb through exhaustion or by a peace honorable to both.

Photographs From Africa.

A lot of photographs taken in tropical Africa last year are suggestive. Here is a busy scene on the wide veranda of a house on the upper Congo. Two black fellows are running sewing machines. A woman is sitting at a table on a table in a rooming house, and other women are busy with cloth and needle. They are making clothing for the whites and uniforms for the black soldiers.

This is a part of the Government training school for tailors; and it stands within a stone's throw of the place where hundreds of canoes were launched upon the river on the day when the fathers of these people, the fierce Bangala cannibals, gave STANLEY the hardest fight he encountered during his long descent of the Congo. The twenty-eight years that have since passed have wrought a wonderful change in this people and their country. STANLEY called them "the Achantis of the Congo"; but the Bangala are now foremost among the natives in industry and progress.

Another picture shows 200 of the Bangala school children drawn up in a long line, naked to the waist, but wrapped in cotton skirts that fall to their ankles. The women and girls formerly dressed in the shortest of grass skirts, skillfully woven by themselves, but scanty even for a ballet dancer. Yards of cotton are now used in their attire, which suggests the new markets for cotton fabrics continually developing in Africa.

Every village settlement throughout the Congo State shows the new arts the natives are learning. They are burning brick and making millions of bricks. One picture shows a lime kiln of the most approved pattern in the remote south-east corner of the State. Nearly all the houses at the stations are built of brick.

Other pictures show the Government training schools in carpentry, with black men sawing, planing and hammering; making door frames, the wooden forms used to shape the half-oval brick tops of windows, and many other specimens of the carpenter's art. Then there is a view of the school in which young men are instructed in cabinet making, for the houses of the Congo are beginning to be supplied with furniture of home manufacture. On the lower Congo they are doing their own printing, and the press room of the printing house at Boma is shown with a modern cylinder press, which black men are tending and feeding.

Philanthropy is prominent in these pictures. The hospital for natives at Boma is said to be the finest building but one on the lower Congo. A hundred or more little white walls are shown in front of the orphan asylum of the sisters at Moanda. Another series of views from German East Africa shows several handsome hospitals, surrounded by fine gardens of shrubbery and flower beds.

When STANLEY arrived at Boma, fifty miles from the mouth of the Congo, in August, 1877, he found six trading buildings of rough boards, engaging the attention of eighteen white men in the midst of a dreary, bleak and unpromising landscape. The Europeans on the Congo to-day try to make their surroundings pleasant to the eye and to secure all possible comfort. In the older settlements the dwellings are surrounded by an arrangement of shrubbery, flower beds and gardens that give a pleasant impression. Every comfort is sought for in the arrangement of the rooms and the ventilation of the houses.

Nearly all the stations vie with one another in making the surroundings as attractive as possible. Nature is so luxuriant in those latitudes that, with guidance and pruning, vegetation may be made to soften the asperities of the ugliest places. Boma has its public park,

with winding walks and shell lined flower beds, its fountains and classical statuary, all very pretty if somewhat conventional.

The collection includes many pictures of the Catholic mission stations. The brick houses, schools and churches are commodious and neat, the trees are not too numerous nor the treeless areas too wide; the tilled lands stretch away on every side and the roads are wide and straight, and seem adapted for any kind of vehicle. Some of these stations might be taken for humble hamlets in central Europe if a baobab or a palm tree here and there did not spoil the illusion. At the larger stations the Church domes, everything, and some of the edifices, accommodating hundreds of worshippers, would architecturally adorn any suburb of New York. Some of the finest of them are as far away as Lake Tanganyika, on the eastern edge of the Congo State.

Such pictures are convincing proof that the day of pioneer exploration of Africa is over and the era of development is well along in its initial stage. There is plenty of barbarism left, but it is losing its foothold in widening areas. Science is helping to hasten its retreat. These pictures from the Congo and East Africa, showing the rooms in which dissection is being studied under the microscope, the experimental farms, the colonist in the healthful Usambara uplands, the automobile roads for freight transportation, the railroad which 170 whites and 4,000 blacks are now building in the heart of Africa, the water conduits and the bridges spanning streams that explorers had to ford, are convincing proof that the best forces of civilization are enlisted in the work of turning tropical Africa to good account.

Mr. WILLIAM F. POTTER, formerly conductor of a freight train, becomes the president of the Long Island Railway Company. He had the grit to leave a job in the clerical department of the first railway that employed him and go to work with his hands. His last advertisement, in the case of a "pull" that consisted in knowing thoroughly one's business, devoting oneself to it entirely, and not being afraid to work. Mr. POTTER says that the poor young man has no chance for advancement any more—no example, Mr. POTTER and Mr. HENRY of New York and Mr. BRAXTON of Alaska.

"Employer" and "Employee." In your paper of yesterday you say, in regard to the use of the word "employee," that it is an analogy, "can go hang." By all means, say, "U it is necessary to invoke French analogy, but in the case at issue there is an English analogy, which justifies 'employee,' I refer to 'employer' (or 'vendor'), and 'employee' (or 'mortgagee') and 'mortgagee' (or 'transferor') and 'transferor'."

The words "employer" and "employee" are not complete without the antecedent which the second bears in the French form, and I have no doubt that if it were used in the English language, it would be as much a misnomer as the word "employee," even if originally an allusion, has become naturalized and is so much to value, let us Frenchify it with its antecedent and call it "employer" and "employee." E. E. TUCKER, New York, Jan. 14.

Still, please remember that usage is the supreme law of language, and analogy can and must go hang!

Why Women Should Not Be Hanged.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: There are now two women under sentence of death in the United States, and it is a pity that they are hanged in Pennsylvania. These executions ought not to take place under existing circumstances. They are atrocious because of the crimes which they are accused, but because it is not only cruel but unjust to hold them to the full accountability under the law.

In the Constitutions of all the States of the Union, except Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and Idaho, women are classed with idiots and lunatics as incompetent to hold office or to exercise the elective franchise. The precise language of the Constitution of Vermont is to the effect that all citizens shall have self-government, "except females, and idiots, and lunatics." In Pennsylvania the classification is, "all persons except election bribery, the insane and women." Women lack of all, as if least capable of exercising the franchise.

Since we must endure the fault of this classification, let us at least be exempt from suffering the extreme penalty of the law. We have not made idiots and lunatics are not hanged, whatever crimes they may commit. Why should women, their intellectual capacities, be thus unjustly dealt with? There is no reason why they should be held to the same standard of crime as men. It is a pity that they are hanged, but because it is not only cruel but unjust to hold them to the full accountability under the law.

LILLIAN DEXTER BLAKE, President National Legislative League, New York, Jan. 14.

No Politics for Soldiers.

From the Medical Record.

Lined and lined men have been dropped from army medical corps, and the army physicians have been notified that it is the opinion of the Surgeon-General's office that politicians have no place in the medical corps. The first line of procedure from them being got in a much more casual way by hot wet compresses.

The prohibition of the time honored lined men, the best material for politicians, seems to interfere with a method practiced by a large number of physicians, who would be inclined to testify that without their lined men, the army would not be so well equipped. There is a strong possibility of a political effect to a large of a political physician to ignore and deprive the soldier of this old fashioned comfort.

President National Legislative League, New York, Jan. 14.

From the Medical Record.

In answer to an advertisement for somebody to "write the medical record" and play the organ the following reply was received:

"Sir: I noticed your advertisement for an organ and music teacher. I have not had time to write you both for several years. I offer you my services." WILLIAM D. HORN

To the Editor of the Sun.—Sir: I say, "Man needs but little here below"—but he must have THE SUN.

STANLEY IRVING, Jan. 14.

Literary Event in Geneva.

From the *Admiral's Gazette*.

A literary dance will be the local literary event of the New Year. The town market will be on hand, and good order will be preserved.

Fashion Note From Kansas.

From the *Texas Capital*.

It is a pleasure to note the decrease in the number of cells old coins at the State House this season.

Wisdom of Solomon.

Solomon explained why he came to have a magic carpet.

Suppose 3,000 wives ordered you to take it up who you moved? says he.

Commanding the wind to do the job, he reached universal envy.

Plausible.

Kalder—So the burglar was found under the

Bocker—Yes, his defense was abominable—

Said he he was used to crawling under the

suits to see why it didn't go.

Afternoon's long periodicals, the *Garden Magazine* will be the first of the season. While the articles are of the usual mass of information useful in the household, there are three short stories, besides, with poems and children's tales. Mr. Kinsley's of *Cherry and the Country House*, Mr. Mayhew's of the travels of grand opera, the story of "Abbie With Mr. Told and Washington society" is described.

THE NEED OF A NAVY.

The Inevitable Outcome of Our Commercial Development.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: There is considerable adverse criticism concerning the wisdom of such large expenditures of public money for the establishment and maintenance of a naval force considered sufficient to meet the requirements of this country. This criticism is not strong enough to overcome the convictions of the majority of our national legislators that a much larger naval force is necessary to furnish an adequate guarantee that the pre-eminence of this country on this continent and its vital interests in the Far East shall not be abridged or usurped by its rivals in the struggle for economic supremacy.

When the various questions which may arise to bring on a war between nations have been considered, it will be found that they are a rule centre in one base, and that is, the question of economics. It follows that a nation which is becoming more and more a menace to the commercial supremacy of other nations should look to it before it is too late that the means of defending this commercial advancement are adequate to the conflict sure to come sooner or later.

Commerce may be postponed by diplomatic measures; but eventually, if the reaching out for and gathering in of trade from all quarters of the globe is persisted in, to the commercial disadvantage and peril of other nations, the result will be war.

During the past five years the United States has gone forward with the development of commercial relations with the rest of the world which bid fair to make this country in the near future the dominant market of the world. It is easy to foretell which countries will dispute this position with us, so soon as the necessary conditions arise.

It has been pointed out by an eminent European economist that a combination will be formed against the United States because we are even now pressing hard upon the old countries in commercial activity; and if this pressure is already making itself felt, how much more will it be felt as our commerce goes on to the further force of its accumulated and accumulating energy in the lines of commercial, artistic and scientific activities.

Preach universal peace and settlement of disputes by arbitration as you may, the question of the very life of a nation, or its struggle to maintain its place in the economic world against economic encroachments will not be left in the future (any more than it has been in the past) to arbitration. In any event, it would be folly to accept such a mode of settlement of differences between nations as certain. When the question has arisen, and the challenge of defiance has been issued against us, it will be our duty to meet it. We thought it was understood that all such questions were to be left to arbitration.

In order that our rivals may not grow at our expense and establish themselves in such places (not already in their possession), and in order that we may adhere to the principles laid down by Mr. Monroe, when, as President of the United States, he stated in his message to Congress in 1823 that there must be no further European intrusion upon this continent. Indeed, it would seem that with the present world against economic encroachments will not be left in the future (any more than it has been in the past) to arbitration. In any event, it would be folly to accept such a mode of settlement of differences between nations as certain. When the question has arisen, and the challenge of defiance has been issued against us, it will be our duty to meet it. We thought it was understood that all such questions were to be left to arbitration.

With this view of the subject it is not difficult to see where our interests lie in the present struggle between Russia and Japan. They lie in complete and consistent neutrality up to the point where either nation attempts to control China, and then it becomes our duty to see that neither nation obtains such control. To guard against such a calamity it is to be hoped that the present struggle will be terminated before either nation has so exhausted itself as to be at the mercy of the other; as it is always difficult to induce a victor to forego the fruits of his victory. Fortunately, in the present case the United States does not stand alone in being interested in maintaining the integrity of China, and the Monroe Doctrine, the enforcement of the Monroe Doctrine and the maintenance of the integrity of China are necessary for the economic preservation of this nation, our wishes in the matter will be respected just so long as it is considered impracticable on the part of other nations to ignore the Monroe Doctrine.

It is the assurance that the United States will not receive sufficient support from other nations in the defense of their doctrine, or what amounts to the same thing, that the assailing nation, or nations, will not have to defend themselves against the attack of other nations which engaged in a war with us and (2) by the strength of the nation or nations concerned as compared with ours. From these conditions two lines of procedure suggest themselves: (1) By diplomacy to keep rival nations from uniting against us as a common enemy; (2) by making our defenses strong enough to render it too hazardous for any nation to make war upon us. The first line of procedure may be likely to prove successful for some length of time, not so much because of our influence in the matter as because of the natural jealousies and rivalries existing between European nations; but we must ultimately depend upon our ability to defend our position by force.

For such a conflict, it may not come, but nothing will prevent it so effectively as being ready. OBSERVER, Boston, Jan. 10.

Future Sources of Electrical Power for New York.

Mr. W. Carl Ely, president of the American Street Railway Association, in the *Electric Review*.

Several of the leading steam roads have purchased street and trolley systems for operation in connection with their existing lines, thus marking the domination of the steam road between the two systems of propulsion. It is difficult to anticipate what may take place during the coming year, but it would seem to be safe to say that the time is not far distant when electrical power generated from the waters of the Hudson, the operation of cars and the furnishing of light to the city of New York.

Dry Wet.

Noah was worried about the fourth week. "Not a dry aboard," he muttered, "I never saw such a dry Sunday in my life."

With a gloomy eye he watched the progress of the deluge.

Impossible Corporation.

No disaster ever.

It really is funny—

Is equal to merging

The fool and his money

In addition to the many financial articles, with plain and colored illustrations, the *Definitive* for February offers the usual mass of information useful in the household. There are three short stories, besides, with poems and children's tales. Mr. Kinsley's of *Cherry and the Country House*, Mr. Mayhew's of the travels of grand opera, the story of "Abbie With Mr. Told and Washington society" is described.

Col. E. B. Warner, U. S. A., Left Several Funds for Use in Westmore.

WESTMORE, Pa., Jan. 14.—Col. Edward B. Warner, U. S. A., who died recently in New York, remembered in his will his native town of Westmore in many donations. He left \$10,000 for a public gymnasium and swimming pool for young people of Montmore, and \$5,000 for the erection of a mortuary chapel and receding vault.

\$100 to each of the Presbyterian, Episcopal, Methodist, Baptist and Catholic Sunday schools for the purchase of books; \$1,000 to each of these churches, \$75 to the colored Sunday school, \$1,000 to the Village Improvement Society, \$1,000 to the Y. M. C. A., and to Four Brothers Post, G. A. R., the "Rebellion Records" and similar works.

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GRAFT IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY.

The Offices of the Sheriff, County Clerk and District Attorney Under Fire.

AMSTERDAM, N. Y., Jan. 14.—The committee appointed by the Bar Association of this city to investigate the officers of Montgomery county met yesterday at Fonda and examined in part the records in the County Clerk's and Sheriff's offices. It is said that the committee found matters much worse than has been charged. When they called upon Sheriff Dods to produce his commitments, which he presented to the last Board of Supervisors and on which he was recently allowed for board of prisoners, he said that he had destroyed all of them by the direction of the Board of Supervisors. This, it is true, destroys the proof of the number of prisoners that were in the jail. The committee, however, has set to work to get all the certificates of conviction from the County Clerk's office to ascertain the accuracy of the Sheriff's bills.

It was found in the examination of such commitments that the same man had at different times been committed to the jail under the same name, serving different sentences for different offenses at the same time. Some of the justices of the peace in the county had committed as high as thirteen to the jail in one year. The records show that Sheriff Dods had on an average of ninety-three prisoners a day last year and that during the ten months from Jan. 1 to Oct. 31 last the Sheriff cared for 823 prisoners.

In the County Clerk's office it was found that the indexes of the records were back seven or eight years, and that furniture had been put for by the county and never been delivered, and no one knows where it went to. Records showing the dealings of the former County Clerk, Mr. Dods, are to be called for by the investigating committee.

The District Attorney's office seems especially to have been conducted with care. Three or four subpoenas having been issued to the same witnesses in the same case for the same day. Such witnesses were paid out of the county fund.

The increase in the expense of running the courts has been more than doubled during the past year, and the amount of criminal business done was less. The amount paid last year in court funds was nearly \$12,000, which is nearly \$1,500 more than ever before paid out in one year. At the June term of the county court the usual thirty-six jurors were subpoenaed, while the county court at Fonda had only twelve jurors for services as jurors. During 1903 the proprietors of three hotels at Fonda, who were indicted for receiving stolen goods, received \$1,100 for board of court attendants and court officers. Heretofore the bills have averaged \$100 or less a year.

LAWYERS CRITICISE ODELL.

For Designating Non-Resident Justices to the Brooklyn Appellate Division.

A meeting of the Brooklyn Bar Association was held yesterday afternoon in the Law Library, to receive the report of a committee appointed to consider the matter of the assignment of justices from the Fourth Department of the Supreme Court to the Appellate Division of the Second Department.